GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:592
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2001
VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER TO USA
SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he visited USA in October, 2001;

(b) if so, the purpose of his visit and the details of discussions held between the two countries;

(c) the outcome thereof;

(d) whether USA has promised help to India in the field of counter-terrorism; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) External Affairs Minister visited New York and Washington DC from September 30-October 2, 2001.

(b)&(c) The visit was part of our active diplomatic engagement with the United States after the September 11 terrorist attacks. Discussions were held on a range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern including the global campaign against terrorism, the military operations in Afghanistan and the post-Taliban political structure. EAM also took the opportunity to visit New York, where he was received by Mayor Guiliani, to express solidarity with the people of the United States, including those of the Indian Community.

(d)&(e) Under the institutional mechanism of the Indo-U.S. Joint Working Group on Counter terrorism, the United States government has agreed to develop and offer programmes in the field of counter-terrorism, including for inter-departmental co-ordination, crisis response, consequence management and to share its expertise in strengthening counter-terrorism institutional structures in India.